

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-05

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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TAGS: TGEN, JA, US

SUBJECT: OVERALL REVIEW OF S&T COOPERATION

REF: (A) TOKYO 3317; (B) STATE 55610

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES REPORT ON FONOFF REACTION TO PROPOSED U.S.-PROPOSED BRIEFING TOPICS AND DISCUSSION AGENDA. WE BELIEVE AND HOPE THAT PARA 1 (B) OF REFTEL MAY REFLECT ONLY SEMANTIC DIFFERENCE, AND NOT COMPLETE FAILURE OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN US AND FONOFF ON PURPOSE OF BRIEFINGS. AS EMBASSY WILL RECALL, ORIGINAL FONOFF BRIEFING TOPICS LIST WAS CAST IN TERMS OF EXISTING US-JAPAN COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS. EMBASSY RECAST LIST IN TERMS OF FIELDS OF R&D EFFORT, WITH PARENTHETICAL EXPRESSIONS INDICATING TOPICS WOULD "INCLUDE" RELEVANT COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS, PRECISELY FOR PURPOSE OF SHIFTING EMPHASIS OF BRIEFING FROM PAST AND PRESENT COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS TO GOJ'S OVERALL R&D EFFORT, FROM WHICH COMMITTEE COULD IDENTIFY AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST FOR NEW COOPERATION.
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REF B DID NOT CHANGE THIS APPROACH, BUT ONLY REQUESTED

THAT WE REITERATE THAT WE WISH EMPHASIS TO BE ON NEW, NOT CURRENT PROGRAMS. WE DO NOT OBJECT, AS OUR PROPOSED LIST REFLECTS, TO INCLUSION OF CURRENT PROGRAMS, BUT STRONGLY

DESIRE THAT THIS ASPECT OF BRIEFINGS BE KEPT VERY BRIEF. THUS, STATEMENT IN PARA 1 (REF B) THAT GOJ ASSUMES BRIEFING "WOULD COVER PAST COOPERATION" NOT NECESSARILY INCORRECT, UNLESS THEY MEAN BY THIS THAT THEY WOULD COVER ONLY PAST COOPERATION.

2. WE ARE DISCOURAGED BY FONOFF DESIRE TO DROP TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION, IN VIEW OF FACT THAT THESE ARE AMONG VERY AREAS IN WHICH ADVANCED JAPANESE TECHNOLOGICAL STATUS PROVIDES U.S. OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN. WE BELIEVE GENTLE REMINDER TO EFFECT THAT OUR OVERALL COOPERATION MUST INCLUDE BOTH AREAS WHERE U.S. MOST ADVANCED AND AREAS OF MAXIMUM JAPANESE CAPABILITIES WOULD NOT BE INAPPROPRIATE. MOREOVER, JAPANESE TALKING PAPER OF NOV 1, 1974 DID NOT STATE ONLY SIX MINISTRIES WOULD BRIEF PANEL, AND WAS IN FACT NOT ADDRESSED TO QUESTION OF WHO WOULD BRIEF PANEL, BUT ONLY TO WHO WOULD BE REPRESENTED ON THE PANEL. WE HAVE EXPLAINED TO FONOFF IN PAST THAT WE CUSTOMARILY DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THOSE WHO APPEAR BEFORE SUCH PANELS FOR PURPOSE OF PROVIDING INFORMATION, AND THOSE WHO SERVE AS MEMBERS. WE OBVIOUSLY DO NOT WISH TO QUESTION FONOFF ON THEIR DESIGNATION OF PANEL MEMBERS, BUT SEE NO OBSTACLE TO MOT AND MOPT OFFICIALS APPEARING BEFORE PANEL IN CAPACITY OF PROVIDERS OF INFORMATION.

3. RE PARA 1 (D) (REF B); WE RECOGNIZE MITI RESERVATIONS ABOUT TOPIC, AND WHETHER AIST'S NATIONAL PROJECTS ARE SUITABLE TOPICS FOR COOPERATION. NEVERTHELESS, WE FEEL STRONGLY THAT TO PERFORM INTELLIGENT REVIEW, COMMITTEE MUST HAVE OVERVIEW OF MAJOR R&D PROGRAMS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS. MERE FACT THAT A PROGRAM IS DESCRIBED FOR COMMITTEES INFORMATION DOES NOT MEAN THAT IT BECOMES A NEW ITEM OF COOPERATION, WHICH OBVIOUSLY COULD NOT OCCUR WITHOUT MUTUAL AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, TO DEPRIVE COMMITTEE OF INFORMATION ON KEY PROGRAMS MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM

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TO EVEN CONSIDER TOPIC AND OBVIOUSLY DEPARTS FROM CONCEPT OF "OVERALL REVIEW". FOR SIMILAR REASONS, AS EXPLAINED TO FONOFF, EXCLUSION OF INFORMATION R&D CONDUCTED BY PRIVATE INDUSTRY IN JAPAN, WHICH AMOUNTS TO 2/3 OF NATIONAL EFFORT, WOULD MAKE REVIEW SERIOUSLY INCOMPLETE. AS TO SPECIFIC FIELDS OF INTEREST, COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY, SUCH AS PIPS, IS CLEARLY ONE, AND WAS FIRST REFERRED TO BY GOJ ITSELF IN EARLIER TALKING PAPER. ELECTRIC CARS IS ANOTHER

POSSIBILITY OF INTEREST TO U.S. PANEL MEMBERS. IN
ADDITION, U.S. PANEL MAY EXPRESS INTEREST IN INDUSTRIAL
R&D MANAGEMENT ON GROUNDS BOTH SIDES HAVE MUCH TO LEARN
FROM EACH OTHERS TECHNIQUES.

4. WE WILL COMMENT SHORTLY ON PROPOSAL FOR SPLITTING
GROUP FOR VISIT PURPOSES. INGERSOLL

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